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General and complete disarmament

The issue of missiles in all its aspects

Report of the Secretary-General

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* A/59/150.

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I. Introduction

1. In operative paragraph 3 of its resolution 58/37, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General, with the assistance of a panel of governmental experts to be established in 2004 on the basis of equitable distribution, to explore further the issue of missiles in all its aspects and to submit a report for consideration by the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session. The present report is submitted in response to that request.

II. Organizational matters

2. In accordance with the terms of the resolution, the Secretary-General appointed the Panel of Governmental Experts on the Issue of Missiles in All its Aspects with members from 23 States: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Brazil, Canada, China, Czech Republic, Egypt, France, India, Islamic Republic of Iran, Israel, Japan, Malaysia, Morocco, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, South Africa, Sweden, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and United States of America. The list of experts is contained in the annex.

3. The Panel held three sessions at United Nations Headquarters during 2004, the first from 23 to 27 February, the second from 17 to 21 May and the third from 19 to 23 July. At its first session, the Panel unanimously elected Santiago Irazabal Mourão of Brazil as its Chairman.

4. The Weapons of Mass Destruction Branch of the Department for Disarmament Affairs served as secretariat to the Panel.

5. In accordance with its mandate as contained in resolution 58/37, the Panel had a comprehensive, in-depth exchange of views on all aspects of the issue of missiles. Furthermore, the Panel took account of the views expressed in the replies received from Member States in response to General Assembly resolution 57/71, as well as in the papers made available by individual Panel members. However, given the complexity of the issues at hand, no consensus was reached on the preparation of a final report.

Annex

List of members of the Panel of Governmental Experts on the Issue of Missiles in All its Aspects

Mohsen Naziri Asl (second session)
Director, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Lotfi Bouchaara
Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Morocco to the United Nations

Chun Yung-woo
Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations

David Cooper
Director, Non-Proliferation Policy
Office of the Secretary of Defence of the United States of America

Asif Ali Khan Durrani (first and second sessions)
Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the United Nations

Richard Ekwall
Director, Department for Strategic Export Control
Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Sweden

Khalil Ur-Rahman Hashmi (third session)
First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the United Nations

Tariq Osman Hyder (second session)
Additional Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan

Alaa Issa
Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Egypt to the United Nations

Jeremy Issacharoff
Deputy Director-General for Strategic Affairs
Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Israel

Wernfried Köffler
Director for Disarmament, Arms Control and Non-Proliferation
Federal Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Austria

Barend J. Lombard
Deputy Director, Nuclear and Non-Proliferation
Department of Foreign Affairs of South Africa

Vitali A. Lukyantsev
Senior Counsellor, Department for Security and Disarmament Matters
Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation

Ma Shengkun
Deputy Division Director, Department of Arms Control and Disarmament
Ministry for Foreign Affair of China

Robert McDougall
Director, Non-Proliferation, Arms Control and Disarmament
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Canada

Santiago Irazabal Mourão
Counsellor, Division for Disarmament and Sensitive Technologies
Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Brazil

Reza Najafi (first and third sessions)
Counsellor, Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran
to the United Nations

François Richier
Director, Non-Proliferation and Nuclear Disarmament
Department for Strategic Affairs of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of France

Renato Carlos Sersale di Cerisano
Director of International Security, Nuclear and Space Affairs
Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Argentina

Anatoliy Scherba
Head of Arms Control and Military and Technical Cooperation
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine

Harsh Vardhan Shringla (third session)
Counsellor, Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations

Paul Stephens
Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Australia to the United Nations

Takaya Suto
Director, Centre for the Promotion of Disarmament
Japan Institute of International Affairs

D. B. Venkatesh Varma (first and second sessions)
Director, Disarmament and International Security Affairs Division
Ministry of External Affairs of India

Josef Vitek
Counsellor, Permanent Mission of the Czech Republic to the United Nations

Andrew Wood
Assistant Director, Head, Export Control Policy,
Counter Proliferation and Arms Control Section
Ministry of Defence of the United Kingdom

Zainal Mohd. Noor
Staff Officer I, Department of Artillery
Ministry of Defence of Malaysia